

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00296 192343 Z

66 61

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 FBIE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10 IO-13 RSR-01 EB-11 EUR-25 /086 W

----- 000642

R 192150 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

BNDD HQS WASHDC

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MANAGUA FOR LEGATT

MEXICO FOR BNDD

PANAMA FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SGEN BH

SUBJECT: STOLEN MAYAN ARTIFACTS

REF: BELIZE 233

1. GEORGE ALAMILLA AND LACELLES " SPOODLES" TILLET WERE CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF AN ARTIFACT ON JUNE 18. THEY WERE EACH FINED BH DOLS 1,000 (ABOUT US DOLS 650) OR THREE MONTHS AT HARD LABOR IF THEY DID NOT PAY THE FINE.

2. TWO ASPECTS OF THE SENTENCE WERE CURIOUS. FIRST WAS ITS LENIENCY. SECOND WAS THAT BOTH MEN RECEIVED THE SAME PUNISHMENT. TILLET IS NOTHING MORE THAN A FLUNKY AND WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN ARTIFACTS SMUGGLING EXCEPT AT THE BEHEST OF ALAMILLA. EVEN MORE SURPRISING WAS THE SPEED OF THE PROCESS -- SIX WEEKS FROM ARREST TO SENTENCING -- A RECORD FOR BELIZE' S PERENIALLY CONGESTED COURTS.

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3. SOURCES HERE INDICATE THAT ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS IS THAT EUROPEANS ARE NOW OUTBIDDING AMERICANS IN THE ARTIFACTS MARKETPLACE. THIS, COMBINED WITH THE NEW U. S. LEGISLATION, HAS DEPRESSED THE MARKET CONSIDERABLY IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THERE IS STILL ALLEGEDLY SUBSTANTIAL MONEY IN BUSINESS, AND THESE SENTENCES WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE TOO MUCH EFFECT ON ILLICIT TRADES. WOLLAM

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: BNDD HQS WASHDC
GUATEMALA
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MANAGUA
MEXICO
PANAMA
SECSTATE WASHDC

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